

and whole life is one that lends your time and talent and efforts to eradicating despair and hopelessness, to make sure the American experience is in every single neighborhood.

I believe we're ushering in a period of personal responsibility, a period where people understand that their most important job is to love—if you happen to be a mother or dad, is to love your children with all your heart and soul—that's your most important job; that you have a responsibility, if you're living in Birmingham, to help the community be a better place for everybody. If you run the corporate Birmingham, you've got a responsibility to your shareholders.

And it's happening. Perhaps the most vivid example of serving something greater than yourself happened on Flight 93. You all may remember that—when people were flying across the country, they learned their plane was becoming a weapon. They told their loved ones goodbye. They said a prayer. One guy said, "Let's roll." And they made the ultimate sacrifice. They served something greater than themselves in life.

That's happening all across America. Obviously, that example is the most vivid of them all. But out of the evil done to America is coming a culture of personal responsibility that allows me to boldly predict that we're much more likely now to bring hope where there's no hope, light where there's darkness, and to make sure this American experience is available for all. It's going to happen, because we are the greatest nation on the face of the Earth. And it is my honor to be the President of such a nation.

Thank you for coming.

NOTE: The President spoke at 11:46 a.m. at the Birmingham Jefferson Convention Complex. In his remarks, he referred to Winton M. "Red" Blount, founder, Blount International, Inc.; Patsy Riley, wife of gubernatorial candidate Bob Riley; Jo Bonner, candidate for Alabama's First Congressional District; and Mike Rogers, candidate for Alabama's Third Congressional District. The President also referred to Title I of the Improving America's Schools Act of 1994 (Public Law No. 103-382), which amended Title I of the Elementary and Secondary Education Act of 1965 (Public Law No. 89-10).

Statement on Senate Action on the Proposed "Public Company Accounting Reform and Investor Protection Act of 2002"

July 15, 2002

In February, I outlined measures to protect the pensions of America's workers from corporate wrongdoing. In March, I proposed a series of initiatives to improve shareholder information, strengthen corporate governance, and create a stronger, more independent accounting system. Last week, I called for additional far-reaching reforms. I am pleased the Senate has now acted on a tough bill that shares my goals and includes all of the accounting and criminal reforms I proposed. The House previously passed strong reform legislation to get tough on corporate malfeasance and significantly improve oversight of the accounting profession. I urge the House and Senate leaders to get a bill to my desk before the August recess. We owe it to America's workers and shareholders to crack down on wrongdoing and fix the system to prevent future abuses.

NOTE: The statement referred to S. 3763, the proposed "Public Company Accounting Reform and Investor Protection Act of 2002."

Message to the Senate Transmitting the Belize-United States Treaty on Mutual Legal Assistance in Criminal Matters

July 15, 2002

To the Senate of the United States:

With a view to receiving the advice and consent of the Senate to ratification, I transmit herewith the Treaty Between the Government of the United States of America and the Government of Belize on Mutual Legal Assistance in Criminal Matters, signed at Belize on September 19, 2000, and a related exchange of notes signed at Belize on September 18 and 22, 2000. I transmit also, for the information of the Senate, the report of the Department of State with respect to the Treaty.